GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:172
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
PAINLESS TECHNIQUE FOR CANCER
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cancer can now be treated by a painless technique in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this technique was evolved in US about 15 years ago and it came to India a couple of years ago and is yet to gain popularity among oncologists;

(d) whether these techniques have not been given adequate publicity through various Government Hospitals in Capital as well as in various States/Union Territories till date; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be made available in Capital/States/Union Territories?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (e) The treatment of cancer is done by Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy. The technique of Teletherapy (Radiotherapy by external beam from Cobalt Machine or Linear Accelerator) is a painless procedure and is extensively used in India both in Government and Private sector hospitals.

The Govt. under the NationalCancer Control Programme is supporting the installation of Cobalt Machines and Linear Accelerators both in Government and Private Sector hospitals by way of release of one time grant-in-aid of Rs. 1.00 crore to NGOs and Rs.1.50 crore to State Govt. Institutions.